IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Marianna EL-AMIN et al.

Title: IMPROVED METHOD FOR MIXING AND
PROCESSING SPECIMEN SAMPLES

Appl. No.: 09/720,543

Filing Date: July 7, 1999 (as PCT/US99/15281)

Examiner: Arlen Soderquist

Art Unit: 1743

AMENDMENT AND
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the non-final Office Action dated October 7, 2003, in the above-referenced patent application.

Amendments to the Abstract are presented as a new Abstract attached to this document for insertion after the claim pages of the application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this document.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this document. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this document.

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Atty. Dkt. No. 029658-0186

1743

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AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

[X]   Small Entity status under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 and § 1.27 has been established by a
          previous assertion of Small Entity status.

[   ]   Assertion of Small Entity status is enclosed.

[X]   The fee required for additional claims is calculated below:

	Claims As Amended		Previously Paid For		Extra Claims Present		Rate		Additional Claims Fee
Total Claims:	22	-	20	=	2	x	$18.00	=	$36.00
	1	-	3	=	0	x	$86.00	=	$0.00
First presentation of any Multiple Dependent Claims:						+	$290.00	=	$0.00
						CLAIMS FEE TOTAL		=	$36.00

-1-

002.1129137.1

[ ] Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for the total number of months checked below:

[ ] Extension for response filed within the first month:	$110.00	$0.00
[ ] Extension for response filed within the second month:	$420.00	$0.00
[ ] Extension for response filed within the third month:	$950.00	$0.00
[ ] Extension for response filed within the fourth month:	$1,480.00	$0.00
[ ] Extension for response filed within the fifth month:	$2,010.00	$0.00
EXTENSION FEE TOTAL:		$0.00
[X] Statutory Disclaimer Fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.20(d):	$110.00	$110.00
CLAIMS, EXTENSION AND DISCLAIMER FEE TOTAL:		$146.00
[X] Small Entity Fees Apply (subtract ½ of above):		$73.00
TOTAL FEE:		$73.00

[ ] Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 in the amount of $73.00. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed.

[X] A check in the amount of $73.00 is enclosed.

[X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Please direct all correspondence to the undersigned attorney or agent at the address indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date   **JAN 0 6 2004**

By _____

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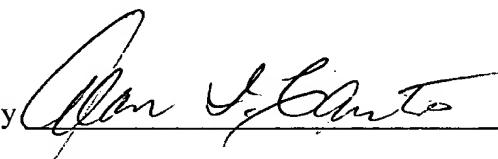
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Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 28,163

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